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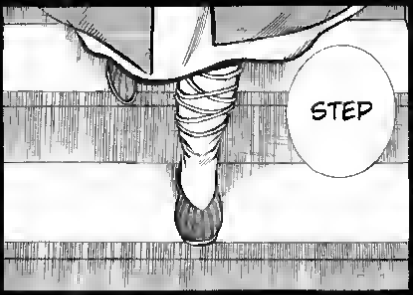
CH.15: HEALING



BROTHER LINGHU IS DEAD...

I CARRIED HIM OUT OF THE INN AND STUMBLED OUT OF THE CITY

YESTERDAY MORNING, AFTER HE WAS STABBED BY LUO RENJIE

AND WANDERED OFF THE TRACKS IN MY STATE OF CONFUSION AND GRIEVE

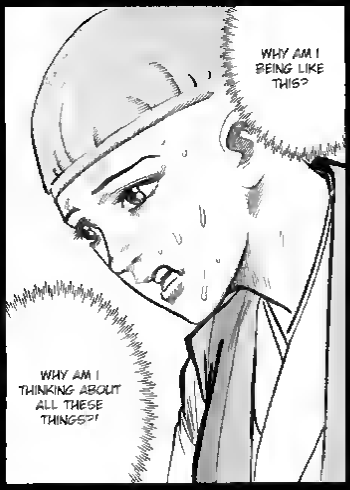
HIS BODY WAS GRADUALLY FEELING COLDER
AS I CONTINUED CARRYING HIM
AND WANDERED OFF WITH NO IDEA WHERE I WAS GOING
JUST KEPT WALKING
TILL I WAS NEAR A LOTUS POND

AND FINALLY COLLAPSED FROM THE EXHAUSTION

WHEN I REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS HIS BODY WAS NOWHERE IN MY SIGHT
I LOOKED EVERY-WHERE AROUND THE POND AND STILL COULDN'T FIND HIM.
UUH... WHERE ARE YOU...

AT THAT TIME, I WAS IN ABSOLUTE DESPAIR. EVEN IF BROTHER LINGHU'S BODY WASN'T MISSING, I FELT I WOULDN'T BE FEELING ANY BETTER ABOUT THE SITUATION ANYWAY...

I'M SO USE-LESS...
BROTHER LINGHU DIED TO SAVE ME AND NOW I CAN'T EVEN PROTECT HIS CORPSE...


WHY AM I BEING LIKE THIS?
WHY AM I THINKING ABOUT ALL THESE THINGS?!

NO!

I MUST STOP LETTING MY MIND TO WANDER!
MY MASTER WOULDN'T ALLOW IT! MUSTN'T LET MY THOUGHTS STRAY...!
SOMEHOW... I FELT RATHER AT EASE WHEN I WAS WITH BROTH LINGHU
IT WAS LIKE WHEN IT WAS MEDITATING AND DIDN'T HAVE ANY STRAY THOUGHTS IN MY MIND
BUT...
...AND EVEN WISHED I COULD JUST CARRY HIM FOREVER...
I KNOW IT'S WRONG TO THINK THAT WAY BUT...

...WHERE ON EARTH IS HIS BODY?

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT?

SISTER, YOUR MASTER TOLD YOU TO ACCOMPANY ME BUT YOU'RE OFF WANDERING ON YOUR OWN

N-NOTHING!

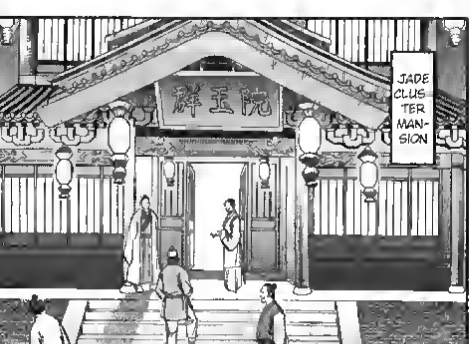
SORRY... BY THE WAY. WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

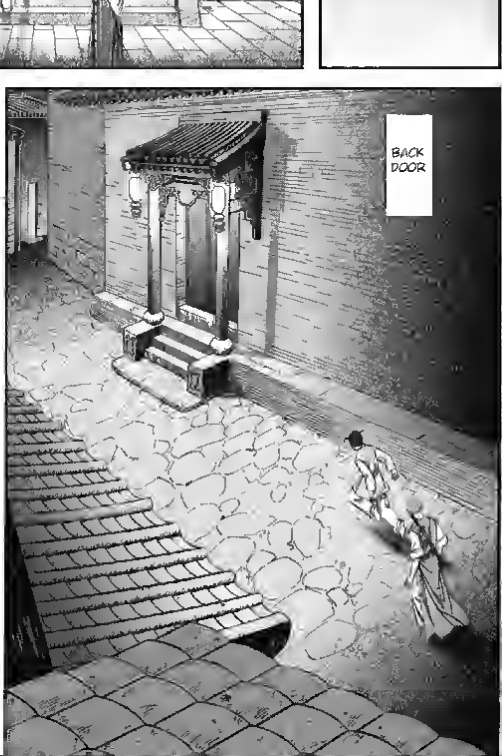
I ASKED YOU POLITELY. WHY ARE YOU MAKING FUN OF ME? BIG BROTHER LINGHU WAS MY SAVIOR. HIS DEATH WAS MY FAULT. I... I
MY FAMILY NAME IS LINGHU AND MY GIVEN NAME IS CHONG!
MY NAME IS QU FEIYAN.
FINE. FINE. I WON'T IMPERSONATE HIM!
WHY DON'T YOU WANT TO GO?
I KNOW WHERE THEY WENT. IF YOU WANT TO LOOK FOR THEM, YOU CAN GO THERE BY YOURSELF. I'M NOT GOING.
OK THEN, MISS QU, LET'S GO FIND YOUR PARENTS THEN. WHERE DO YOU THINK THEY MIGHT BE?

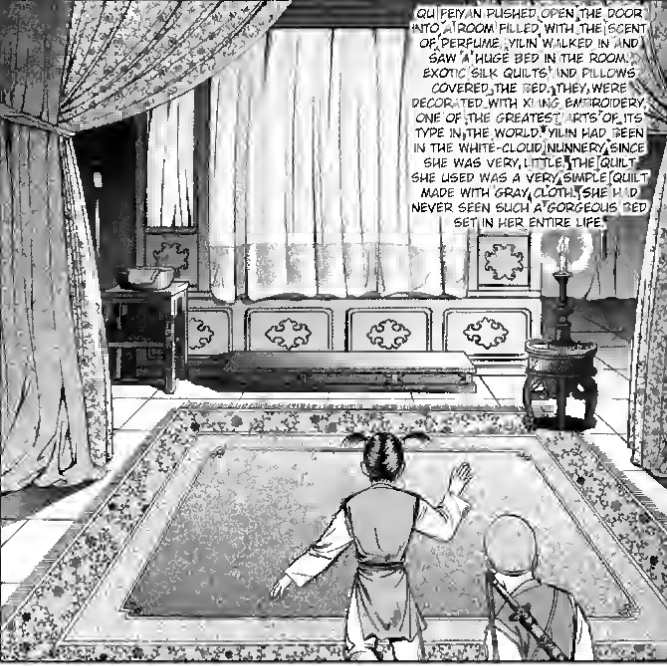
IF YOUR PARENTS HAVE PASSED AWAY ALREADY, HOW CAN YOU STILL MAKE FUN OF THEM?
MY PARENTS WERE MURDERED BY BAD GUYS A LONG TIME AGO. IF YOU WANT TO LOOK FOR THEM, YOU'LL HAVE TO GO TO THE UNDER-WORLD.
I AM LEAVING!
SISTER, CAN YOU GIVE ME SOME OF YOUR "TIANXIAN HEALING CONCOCTION"? I NEED TO SAVE SOMEONE.
OK OK I WON'T SAY ANYMORE
HE'S A VERY IMPORTANT PERSON. HE KNOWS WHERE YOUR BROTHER LINGHU IS AT!
WHO ARE YOU SAVING?

W-WHAT? WHO IS IT?
WHETHER YOU SAVE THIS MAN OR NOT, IT ALL GOES TO YOU. ALSO, THE PLACE WE'LL BE GOING ISN'T SOME NICE PLACE EITHER!
IF SISTER CAN SAVE HIM, HE'LL BE ABLE TO TELL YOU WHERE THE BODY IS!
HE'S HEAVILY INJURED RIGHT NOW AND HIS LIFE IS AT RISK.
EVEN IF I HAVE TO CLIMB OVER A MOUNTAINS OF BLADES AND FORESTS OF SWORDS TO DO IT!
BROTHER LINGHU DIED TO SAVE ME, NO MATTER I WILL HAVE TO RETRIEVE HIS BODY!

OK, LET'S GO!
FINE, I'LL GO!


JADE CLUSTER MANSION


BACK DOOR

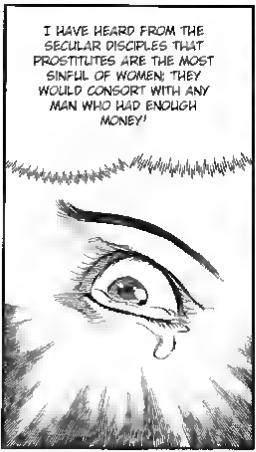

QU FEIYAN PUSHED OPEN THE DOOR INTO A ROOM FILLED WITH THE SCENT OF PERFUME. YILIN WALKED IN AND SAW A HUGE BED IN THE ROOM. EXOTIC SILK QUILTS AND PILLOWS COVERED THE BED. THEY WERE DECORATED WITH XIANG EMBROIDERY, ONE OF THE GREATEST ARTS OF ITS TYPE IN THE WORLD. YILIN HAD BEEN IN THE WHITE-CLOUD NUNNERY SINCE SHE WAS VERY LITTLE. THE QUILT SHE USED WAS A VERY SIMPLE QUILT MADE WITH GRAY CLOTH. SHE HAD NEVER SEEN SUCH A GORGEOUS BED SET IN HER ENTIRE LIFE.

THIS IS A VERY FAMOUS PLACE IN MT HENG CITY. IT'S CALLED THE JADE CLUSTER MANSION.

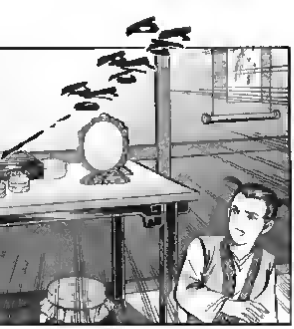
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

IT'S THE NUMBER ONE BROTHEL IN TOWN!

WHAT IS THIS JADE CLUSTER MANSION...?


I HAVE HEARD FROM THE SECULAR DISCIPLES THAT PROSTITUTES ARE THE MOST SINFUL OF WOMEN; THEY WOULD CONSORT WITH ANY MAN WHO HAD ENOUGH MONEY!

B-BROTHEL?!



W-WHY WOULD YOU BRING ME TO SUCH A PLACE...?!

T-THAT VOICE NEXT DOOR.

IT SOUNDS LIKE THAT 'THOUSAND MILES LONER' TIAN BOGUANG!

IT'S TIAN TIAN BOGUANG!
WHAT'S WRONG?
WHO JUST SAID MY NAME?!
OH, THAT'S RIGHT I RECOGNIZED HIS VOICE TOO IT'S YOUR CUTE LITTLE DISCIPLE TIAN BOGUANG

HEY, TIAN BOGUANG. YOUR MASTER'S HERE COME HERE QUICKLY, GET ON YOUR KNEES TO GREET YOUR MASTER!
SHE IS RIGHT HERE SO HURRY UP, AND GET ON OVER!
DID YOU NOT SWEAR TO TAKE LITTLE SISTER YILIN OF THE NORTH HENG SECT AS YOUR MASTER AT THE RETURNING GEESE INN?
WHAT MASTER YOU LITTLE SHIT? KEEP BABBLING AND I'M GOING TO TEAR YOUR STINKING MOUTH TO SHREDS!
WHO ARE YOU? I AM GOING TO KILL YOU!
HOW CAN SHE POSSIBLY BE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS? ... AND HOW THE HELL DID YOU KNOW?

NO, NO! DON'T LET HIM COME OVER!
COME HERE AND KOWTOW TO YOUR MASTER FIRST!
SIR, WHAT'S THE MATTER?
HUH, WHY WOULD THAT LITTLE NUN BE HERE?!

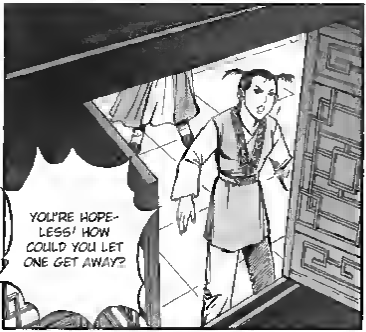
WHAT DAMN MASTER? TIAN BOGUANG RETORTED. I WAS TRICKED BY THAT LINGHU CHONG! IF THAT LITTLE NUN COMES ONE STEP CLOSER, I'LL KILL HER WHERE SHE STANDS!
TIAN BOGUANG DON'T YOU RUN AWAY! YOUR MASTER'S HERE TO SETTLE A SCORE WITH YOU!
IT'S OK! NO NEED TO SHOUT!
N-NO, I AM NOT GOING OVER, AND YOU DON'T COME HERE EITHER!
AGREEING TO BE THE LITTLE SISTER'S DISCIPLE TO ANYONE OTHERWISE, I'LL JUST ANNOUNCE IT TO THE ENTIRE WORLD!
YOU CAN STAND GUARD OUTSIDE AND KEEP PEOPLE FROM BOTHERING US. IF YOU DO YOUR JOB WELL, THEN MAYBE I WON'T MENTION ABOUT YOUR
FINE. HAVE IT YOUR WAY. BUT WHEN WE CAME HERE EARLIER, WE WERE FOLLOWED BY A COUPLE OF LITTLE SNEAKY RATS. YOU'D BETTER GO AND GET RID OF THEM FAST. YOUR MASTER AND I ARE RESTING HERE.

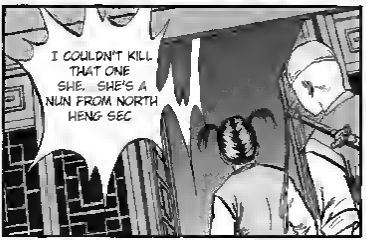
HMF
YOU SNEAKY PUNKS. YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF NERVES!
HOW DARE YOU! INTERRUPT ME WHEN I'M HAVING MY FUN!

PENG RENQI
TIAN BOGUANG?!
呼——
呼——

嗙！
唬！

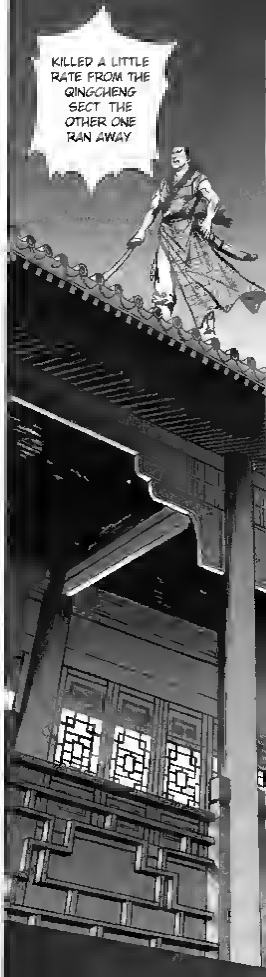
아!


YOU'RE HOPELESS! HOW COULD YOU LET ONE GET AWAY?

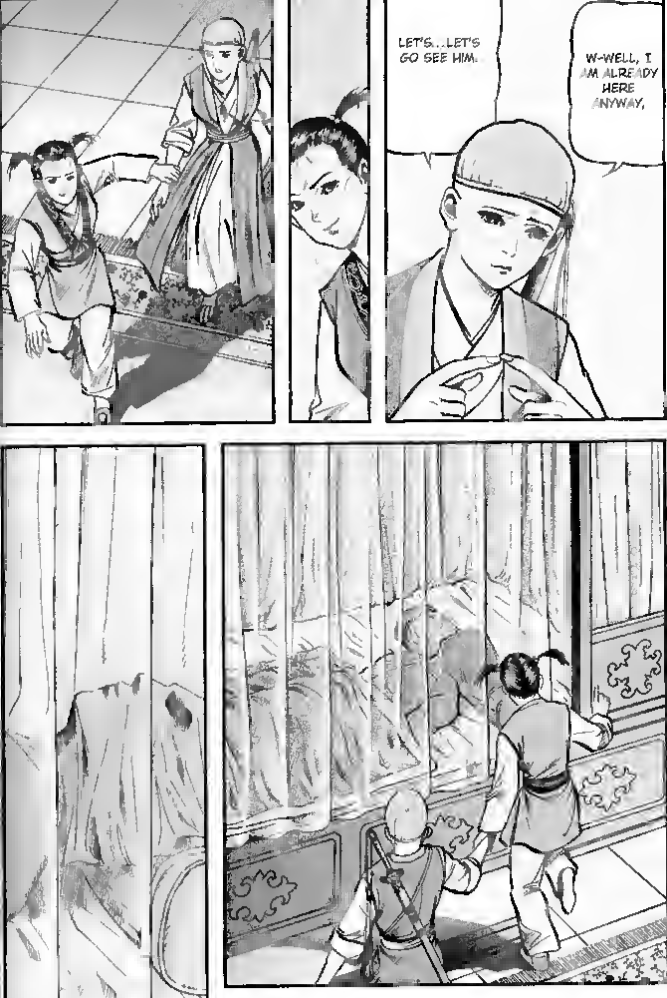

I COULDN'T KILL THAT ONE SHE... SHE'S A NUN FROM NORTH HENG SEC

WAS THAT MY SHIJIE? WHAT DO I DO NOW?

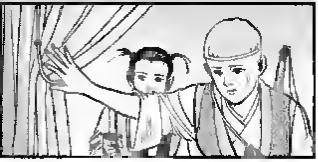
I SEE. YOUR MASTER'S COMRADE! OF COURSE YOU COULDN'T KILL HER


KILLED A LITTLE RATE FROM THE QINGCHENG SECT. THE OTHER ONE RAN AWAY

.....
YOU SHOULDN'T ASK QUESTIONS LIKE THAT. IF YOU KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT, YOUR MASTER WILL PUT THE MATTER TO REST!
BRAT, WHO ARE YOU?
IF YOU'RE AFRAID OF MAKING YOUR MASTER UNHAPPY AND WANT TO GO BACK, THAT'S FINE WITH ME THOUGH
BUT YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE PATIENT YET. DIDN'T YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO ASK HIM?
MISS QU, LET'S LEAVE HERE QUICKLY!


LET'S...LET'S GO SEE HIM.
W-WELL, I AM ALREADY HERE ANYWAY,

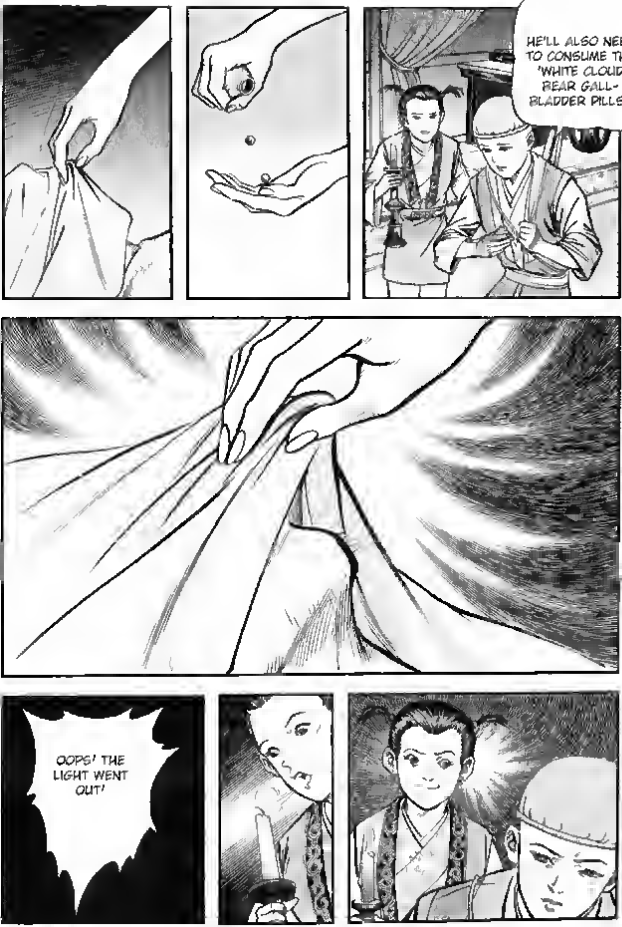
HE...HE REALLY KNOWS WHERE BROTHER LINGHU'S BODY IS?
SIS GO AHEAD, HELP HIM WITH YOUR TIANXIANG MEDICINAL CONCOCTION!
BUT YOU SAID EARLIER THAT HE DID KNOW.
MAYBE HE DOES, MAYBE HE DOESN'T. I DON'T KNOW.
IF YOU WANT TO HELP HIM, GET TO WORK, OTHERWISE JUST TURN AROUND AND LEAVE NOBODY'S GOING TO STOP YOU
I'M NOT A GENTLEMAN, I DON'T HAVE TO KEEP MY WORDS
EVEN IF THERE IS ONLY A SLIM CHANCE I CAN'T LET IT PASS!
NO MATTER WHAT THE COST IS I NEED TO FIND BROTHER LINGHU'S BODY



FINE, I'LL DO IT!

HIS CHEST WOUND IS VERY DEEP; IT BARELY MISSED HIS HEART.

ALL THE PRESSURE POINTS AROUND THE WOUND HAD ALREADY BEEN PROPERLY SEALED. MUCH BETTER THAN WHAT I COULD HAVE ACHIEVED BY MYSELF.
ALL THE PRESSURE POINTS THAT HELP TO STOP BLEEDING HAVE ALREADY BEEN SEALED. OTHERWISE HE WOULD BE DEAD BY NOW.
OH, THIS MEDICINAL CONCOCTION OF YOUR SECT SURE IS A WONDER!


HE'LL ALSO NEED TO CONSUME THE 'WHITE CLOUD REAR GALL-BLADDER PILLS'.
OOPS! THE LIGHT WENT OUT!

OK, WAIT HERE WHILE I GO AND GET A CANDLE.
MISS QU, WILL YOU PLE!SE LIGHT THE CANDLE?
NO NO DON'T LEAVE. WHAT AM I SUPPOSE TO DO HERE ALONE?
MISS QU...!
JUST FEED HIM THE PILLS FIRST I'LL BE BACK REAL QUICK
UGH...

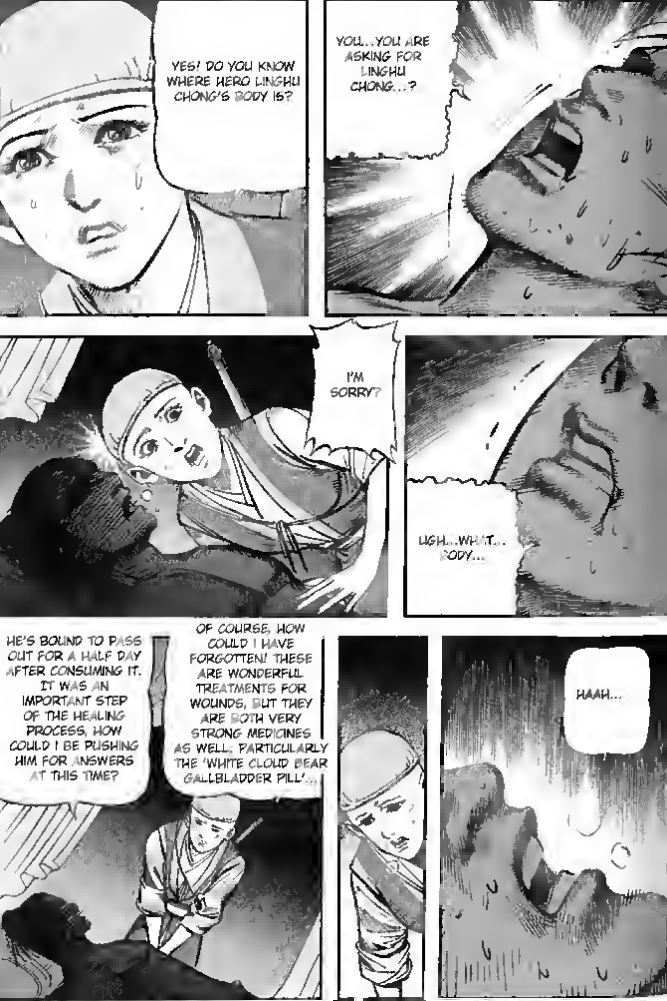
EVEN IF THIS MAN DOESN'T KNOW WHERE BROTHER LINGHU'S BODY IS HE IS ON THE VERGE OF DYING, AND I SHOULD STILL TRY TO SAVE HIS LIFE

MASTER HAS ALWAYS TOLD US THAT AS BUDDHISTS WE SHOULD ALWAYS BE MERCIFUL TO OTHERS. SAVING A LIFE IS MORE MEANINGFUL THAN BUILDING A SEVEN-STORY PAGODA FOR THE BUDDHA.

T-THANK Y-YOU...

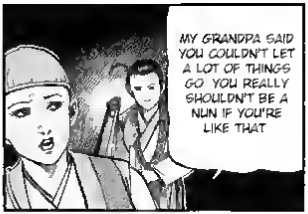
HERO LINGHU CHONG WAS MURDERED. HIS BODY...

SIR, I KNOW YOU ARE WOUNDED BADLY. I REALLY SHOULD LET YOU REST. BUT I HAVE ONE URGENT THING TO ASK OF YOU.


YES! DO YOU KNOW WHERE HERO LINGHU CHONG'S BODY IS?
YOU...YOU ARE ASKING FOR LINGHU CHONG...?
I'M SORRY?
UGH...WHAT... BODY...
HE'S BOUND TO PASS OUT FOR A HALF DAY AFTER CONSUMING IT. IT WAS AN IMPORTANT STEP OF THE HEALING PROCESS. HOW COULD I BE PUSHING HIM FOR ANSWERS AT THIS TIME?
OF COURSE. HOW COULD I HAVE FORGOTTEN! THESE ARE WONDERFUL TREATMENTS FOR WOUNDS, BUT THEY ARE BOTH VERY STRONG MEDICINES AS WELL, PARTICULARLY THE 'WHITE CLOUD BEAR GALLBLADDER PILL'...
HAAH...

BUT STILL WHERE IS BROTHER LINGHU'S BODY ?

YOUR GRANDPA? HOW DOES HE HE KNOW ?


MY GRANDPA SAID YOU COULDN'T LET A LOT OF THINGS GO. YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T BE A NUN IF YOU'RE LIKE THAT

WE SAW YOU CARRYING LINGHU CHONG'S BODY AND RUNNING OUT AIMLESSLY

YESTERDAY IN THE RETURNING GEESE INN, GRANDPA AND I WERE WATCHING EVERYTHING.

WAS MY GRANDPA RIGHT?
GRANDPA SAID, THIS LITTLE NUN IS REALLY A PASSIONATE GIRL. I AM AFRAID SHE IS GOING TO GO CRAZY. SEE HOW UPSET THIS LITTLE NUN IS. IF THIS LAD LINGHU CHONG WEREN'T DEAD, THE LITTLE NUN WOULD DEFINITELY GIVE UP ON THE NUNNERY AND MARRY HIM!'
I REALLY WISH I WAS THE ONE WHO DIED INSTEAD OF HIM.
HE DIED BECAUSE OF ME
WHY WOULD YOU GO SO FAR FOR HIM? DO YOU REALLY LIKE HIM AFTER ALL?
N-NO! MISS QU, I'M A NUN! PLEASE DON'T SAY SUCH DISRESPECTFUL WORDS TO THE BUDDHA!
IF BUDDHA PITIES ME, AND LETS ME DIE IN EXCHANGE FOR BROTHER LINGHU'S LIFE, I, I, EVEN IF I HAD TO FALL ALL THE WAY TO THE BOTTOM OF THE 18TH LEVEL OF HELL AND NEVER BE REBORN AGAIN, I WOULD NOT COMPLAIN

WHAT IF HE WAS ALIVE AGAIN? WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO DO ANYTHING FOR HIM?

YES, EVEN IF I HAD TO DIE A THOUSAND TIMES FOR HIM, I WOULD HAVE NO COMPLAINTS.

IT'S JUST... HE'S WILLING TO GO THE DISTANCE TO SAVE A STRANGER JUST LIKE THAT... I... I JUST FEEL I OWE HIM SO MUCH!

DON'T JOKE ABOUT IT!

BIG BROTHER LINGHU, LISTEN UP, SIS YILIN SAID IT HERSELF...

YOU...YOU...!
SHE SAID: IF YOU ARE NOT DEAD, SHE WOULD DO ANYTHING FOR YOU!
GO AHEAD AND SEE WHO THAT IS!
AH!

B-BROTHER LINGHU...!